

Service Area Strategic Plan

Department of Social Services (765)

Service Area 6 of 33

Central Administration and Quality Assurance for Child Care Activities (765 451 07)

Description

This service area supports quality enhancement of child care services and increased access to early childhood and child care resources for parents and providers.

Background Information

Mission Alignment and Authority

- *Describe how this service supports the agency mission*

By improving the quality of early childhood and child care services, VDSS helps families in accessing and maintaining stable care for their children while they work or complete educational programs. These activities help to promote stable and economically independent families and strong communities.

- *Describe the Statutory Authority of this Service*

Federal Legal Basis - The Child Care Development Block Grant (Public Law 101-508) Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, amended PL 101-508 to become the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF); legislation which establishes the work requirements associated with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant and establishes the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care, serving TANF and other low-income families through child care subsidies.

Federal Regulation – 45 CFR, Parts 98 & 99, which set the regulations for the state Lead Agency to administer the CCDF

Code of Virginia - §§ 63.2-616 which allows local department to provide services to families who are not receiving TANF and § 63.2-319- Child Welfare and other services.

Customers

Agency Customer Group	Customer	Customers served annually	Potential annual customers
Individuals, Children and Families (served unknown; potential unlimited)	Child Care Providers (Teachers and Directors)	8,000	30,000

Anticipated Changes To Agency Customer Base

[Nothing entered]

Partners

Partner	Description
Child Development Resources	Contracted to provide the 1-2-3 READ! Virginia early literacy program for child care providers statewide; includes a family component and technical assistance/mentoring for infant and toddler teachers
City of Richmond	Contracted to provide training, technical assistance, and mentoring to infant and toddler teachers in the Richmond metro area; increase availability of infant and toddler care
Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA)	Contracted through June 30, 2008 for Early Childhood Endorsement Program courses to include trainer coordination and contracts; contact with VCU-VISSTA for other logistics; manage curricula developers' and graders' contracts; print/copy all handouts and trainer materials; distribute materials to trainers
Head Start	The Head Start State Collaboration office is housed in and supported by VDSS; contract with the Virginia Head Start Association to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers through the Early Head Start program
Local Departments of Social Services	Partners in the Virginia Social Services System. Local departments assist with disseminating information and training to regulated and unregulated child care providers in their localities, as well as assist families with finding needed child care support
Rural Family Development of the Virginia Council of Churches	Contracted to provide wrap-around child care services before and after attending a Head Start program for the children of seasonal workers in the northeastern part of the state
State Agencies	DMHMRSAS, VDH, LOV, VDOE, VCCS, VDBA-Virginia Small Business Financing Authority – These agencies assist with consultation, distributing information, developing publications and training, extending low-interest loans to child care providers for quality improvements, etc.
Various School-age Care Programs	Contracted to improve the quality of before- and after-school care to children from 5-12 years old (Includes the following organizations: Culpeper Human Services; K.I.D.S., Inc.; Lee County Child Care; Lewis Children's Center at St. Joseph's Villa; People Incorporated of Southwest Virginia; Rappahannock Area YMCA; Reston Interfaith, Inc.; William Byrd Community House; YWCA of South Hampton Roads; YMCA of Greater Richmond)
Virginia Child Care Resource and Referral Network	Non-profit organization with 12 member agencies statewide is contracted to provide resource and referral information to parents/families about specific child care needs; administration of the TEACH-Virginia scholarship and wage incentive program for child care providers
Virginia Commonwealth University - Virginia Institute for Social Services Training Activities (VCU-VISSTA) and Area Training Centers	Contracted with through June 30, 2008 for child care provider training registration services, site location and coordination, and minimal catering
Virginia Early Childhood Foundation	Contracted to provide local grants to improve the quality of infant and toddler care at the local level

Products and Services

- *Factors Impacting the Products and/or Services:*

Among the factors impacting the products and services associated with these child care quality activities are:

Storage limitations at VDSS for training materials and resources (i.e., Storage space at Goodwill Industries is very limited and cannot currently meet our needs)

Limits with state procurement system (requiring Early Childhood Education weekend trainers to join eVA and the \$5,000 annual limit per trainer) and state contracts

The Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program is significantly impacted by the rising cost of community college tuition; the number of child care providers that can receive awards for scholarships are limited to the \$600,000 annual appropriation. Increased costs decrease the number of potential awards that can be made with the finite funding.

Lack of Early Childhood Education degree programs to prepare qualified teachers affect this service area, especially the lack of 4-year degree programs and individuals successfully completing the curricula.

There are insufficient numbers of caregivers for children with special needs (infants and toddlers, disabled/challenged children, sick children, children who need care at night or odd times, etc.).

A more comprehensive approach to training the early care and education workforce is needed and is being pursued by VDSS, the Governor's office and many early childhood advocates.

Work hours of the workforce limit offerings for training sessions, which often have to be held in the evenings and on weekends, with weekends being preferred by most child care teachers and directors.

- *Anticipated Changes to the Products and/or Services*

VDSS may have to order fewer publications to alleviate storage issues. This may cause a lapse in distribution to parents.

Developing a professional development infrastructure for child care professionals will provide better training and education opportunities and will contribute to improving the quality of child care resources statewide.

Considerations are also being made to changing the Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program regulation to streamline procedures and give priority to current child care teachers/directors.

- *Listing of Products and/or Services*
 - Child Care Provider Scholarships
 - Child Care Provider Training and Technical Assistance
 - Support of organizations serving communities
 - New Parent Kits
 - Child Care Resource and Referral Services

Finance

- *Financial Overview*

[Nothing entered]

- *Financial Breakdown*

	Fiscal Year 2009		Fiscal Year 2010	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Change To Base	\$43,750	\$2,431,032	\$43,750	\$2,431,032
Service Area Total	\$43,750	\$2,431,032	\$43,750	\$2,431,032

Service Area Objectives

- Improve access and availability of high quality early childhood and child care services

Objective Measures

- Number of child care providers receiving professional development scholarships through the Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship program

Governor's Key:

No

Measure Type:

Outcome

Measure Frequency:

Annual

Frequency Comment: Number of child care providers receiving child care training scholarships

Measure Baseline: 2,235 child care providers received Virginia Child Care Provider scholarships in SFY 2006.

Measure Target: 2,235 child care providers will receive Virginia Child Care Provider scholarships in SFY 2009.

Data Source and Calculation: The data will be captured through the Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship database.